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Removal of the disabilities of the Elavas in the matter of education.

Mr. Kumaran Asan (Member, S. N. D. P. Yogam, Trivandrum) urged first that Elava girls should be given free admission into the schools of the State. He said that the objection raised was that, if they were admitted, the other girls would leave the schools. The fear was unwarranted, as the Elavas had already gained admission into many institutions in the State. In the girls' schools at Kottukal, Chathannur, Kadakavur and other up-country villages, the Elava girls did learn side by side with the Nayar and other caste-girls. He stated that in Cochin, which is more orthodox than Travancore, Elava girls and even girls far below them in social status were given admission into all schools. He therefore requested that Elava girls might be ordered to be admitted into all schools in the State and that, wherever that was not practicable, special schools might be opened for them. He also prayed that pecuniary assistance might be given to schools started for Elava girls, in the shape of full salary grants and building grants.

The Member then spoke about the admission of Elava boys into all schools. He expressed the thankfulness of his community for the admission already allowed to their boys into most schools in the State and the promised removal of the other schools to unobjectionable places. As regards the schools now closed to them, he said that many of them were situated in localities accessible to the Elavas, and he requested that the list might be revised. He prayed also for early and prompt steps being taken for the removal of the other schools to unobjectionable centres.

Lastly, he said that both the Sanskrit and Ayurvedic Colleges were situated in localities accessible to Elavas. He requested that they might be given admission into these institutions, and if that could not be done, that the colleges might be shifted to some other locality, especially as they were at present held in rented buildings only. He added that a convenient building was available at Singarathope for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Out of 269 schools for boys—English and Vernacular—326 are *now* open to Elavas. Stringent orders have been issued to the Inspectors to see that Elava children *do* get admission into these schools. If, in any of these 326 schools, the Elava boys were not allowed admission, Government will enforce it, should the same be brought to their notice. Action has also been taken for the removal of the remaining 43 schools to places to which Elavas could have access. I must however point out that the shifting of so many as 43 schools *must* take

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time. I note the statement made by the Member that some of these schools are not really located in places inaccessible to the Elavas. If the Member will send up a list of such schools, an enquiry will be made, and should his statement be found correct, steps will be taken to throw them open to the Elavas.

In regard to Elava *girls*, I have to repeat what I stated to the last Assembly that, in the case of many of the girls' schools, the first effect of forcing Elava girls into them would probably be to empty them of the Brahmin and Nair girls. His Highness' Government are not prepared to force matters in that direction. They hope that the time would come when public feeling would so far have changed that it would be possible for Brahmin, Nair and Elava girls to sit together in all rural places, as the boys of those communities are now doing. *Till then*, the remedy open is, as indicated by me to the last Assembly, for Elavas to open girls' schools of their own, to which Government would gladly give liberal grants. Government are also prepared to open schools specially for Elava girls in places where the probable attendance would justify such opening and where the community is too poor and backward to open schools for themselves. If the Yogam, of which the Member is the representative, would send me a list of the places where they consider it necessary that Government should open girls' schools for Elavas and other castes similarly situated, Government would gladly enquire and do what they can.

In regard to the Sanskrit College and Patasala, Government adhere to the answer they gave to the last Assembly that these two institutions could not now be thrown open to the Elavas.

50. *Raising the standard of the Shertallay English Middle School.*

Mr. Narayanan Nilakantan (Member, Shertallay Taluk) said that there was at present only an English Middle School in the taluk and that the people underwent great trouble in having to send their young boys to Kottayam or Alleppey. He requested therefore that the school might be raised to the High School standard.

Dewan's reply.—The Inspector of Schools will be asked to report on the suggestion made by the Member.

VIII.—Religious and Charitable Institutions.

51. *Certain suggestions for the better management of the religious and charitable institutions.*

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) advocated the imposition of certain limitations and restrictions upon the eleemosynary aid that was being given by the State. He observed that an answer to his proposition

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